Cups and Counters Activity -- Review of Solving Equations

Materials:

* Counters or cubes..anything that can be used in place of a number
* Dixie Cups
* Handout (2)

Students will use counters and Dixie cups as manipulatives to solve equations. This is a lesson for the student to remember how to deal with variables. Once the student has shown success with this activity, then they may choose to not use the cups and counters.

* The goal is for the students to use manipulatives to symbolize variables and constants.
* Be careful when selecting examples for this activity. Use a bar to symbolize the equal sign.

Be sure to review zero pairs…..if you +1 and -1 to the same side and do the same for the other side of the equal sign, you have changed nothing.

* For a negative variable, turn the cup upside down to visualize a negative variable.
* You want students to be able to solve and use the handout.
* Students must fill in the pictorial, written description and symbolic columns.

Example #1:



Can be symbolized as follows

Problems for students to do using Dixie cups and counters:

1. 
2. 

+ +

Example #2:



Can be symbolized as follows

+ +